

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Nadine Bell called the June 15, 2015 Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Rocky Hill Town Hall, 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

Those in attendance: Councilor Frank Szeps. Also present: Guy Scaife (Director of Public Safety/Town Manager), Chief Mike Garrahy (RHFD) Assistant Chief Dave Kromas (RHFD), Fire Marshal Rich Renstrom, Chief Joe Grayeb (RHVAA), Lt. Rob Catania (RHPD), Councilor Joe Kochanek, Councilor Cathy Vargas and Mayor Henry Vasel.

Those absent: Councilor Bill MacDonald and Chief Mike Custer (RHPD).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Szeps made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting of the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

III. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Vasel had said that there had been an incident that could have been bad in nature at Rocky Hill High School a few weeks ago. There was a smoke condition. It turned out being just that and nothing that was more major. The kids were escorted out of the building. The RHPD, RHVAA and RHFD showed up right away and they got the situation under control. He thanked everyone on behalf of the public for doing a great job.

Councilor Kochanek said school will be coming out of session within the next couple of days. He has been reading in the newspapers how Glastonbury, Hartford and Middletown have had a large number of drugs confiscated by those Police Departments. He doesn't think that the Rocky Hill kids are under the guidance of the SROs (School Resource Officers) when school is out. He will feel more comfortable knowing that what will be done during the summer months won't allow the people from the other areas, as well as possibly from Rocky Hill, to start influencing the Rocky Hill kids into using drugs.

Chairwoman Bell commended the RHFD on a letter that the Councilors received about a horrific accident that had occurred on I-91 North on May 7, 2015. Town Manager Scaife had copied them on that letter and this letter was from the girlfriend of the victim, who was injured seriously. Chairwoman Bell said the RHFD had stepped up and had done a wonderful job. She

encouraged anyone out in the public who is interested in making a difference to contact the RHFD if they are interested in volunteering. There is a current campaign going on to get new members.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

A. Fire

Chief Garrahy thanked Chairwoman Bell for her kind words about the I-91 fire call. Chief Garrahy said that the RHVAA was there next to the RHFD the whole time.

Chief Garrahy said the RHFD responded to 57 incidents in May, with a year-to-date total of 288. There were 331 training hours, with a year-to-date total of 1,675. There were 71 administrative hours, with a year-to-date total of 1,450. There were no firefighter injuries, with a year-to-date total of one. One new member has been put online with a year-to-date total of 2 firefighters, no new Cadets and no new Fire Police. For the year-to-date total in May 2014, there were 216 incidents, 1,979 training hours and 666 administrative hours.

There were no apparatus accidents last month. One firefighter is currently in FFI certification class and one firefighter is in FFII certification class.

At the end of this month, Jerry Barr will be retiring from the RHFD after serving for thirty-nine years and one month. He was a firefighter for twenty-two years and he rose to the rank of Captain. He was in the Fire Police for seventeen years and he served as the Commanding Officer for that group. He has held just about every subordinate role in both divisions. Chief Garrahy said the RHFD is commending Jerry Barr.

Chief Garrahy referred to the recruitment. He mentioned again about the one new member being online. There are seven new firefighter members and three new Cadets who are in the application process. There are a considerable number of events planned for recruitment in the future.

The Duty Officer Program has been put back online and they are approximately halfway through the rotation. Chief Garrahy said the Station Officers are rotated on a weekly basis as the Duty Officer. From a command aspect and a routine one, this gives the Station Officers experience. This allows a fixed point of contact for routine issues to be created for the RHFD and this is also a great training tool. These Station Officers will be assisting with preplanning very shortly so that they will get a better understanding of the occupancies in their response districts. Assistant Chief Kromas said they will be working with the NexGen transition process and the updating of their preplanning. The Duty Officer (Company Officers) will be working with Firehouse Inspect, within the next sixty to ninety days, to update all of the preplans for the buildings. This needs to be done on a periodic basis. Some of the dispatch protocols have been changed to go along with the Duty Officer Program. This program is integral to updating an Officer's training to make them a better Command Officer. The way the horns are tested at the firehouses is being changed too. These will be tested only at 6:00 p.m. instead of being tested then and also at 12:00 p.m. The only time those horns will sound other than that will be after the tones go out and

Cromwell Dispatch, which is also part of Task Force 51, or a Staff or Company Officer doesn't confirm the receipt of those. The tones will then be set off again with the horns. The way apparatus is toned out is also being changed. He is working with Sergeant Phelps and the dispatchers on updating the dispatch protocols. The Microwave project has been completed basically and they are just waiting on the completion of NexGen.

At this point, Chairwoman Bell acknowledged that both the RHVAA and the RHPD had responded to the horrific accident on I-91 North. She explained that she had just been referencing a letter that was specific to the RHFD and she thanked the RHVAA that does a great job in the community, as well as the RHPD. She apologized for the oversight.

B. Ambulance

Chief Grayeb said there were 322 calls in May, with a year-to-date total of 1,722. The RHVAA has 65 members and there are two new applicants who are being processed. Twenty-two members were sent to the Annual EMS Conference. The RHVAA just had their elections again and he told them that he will be the Chief for another three years. Chairwoman Bell congratulated Chief Grayeb.

C. Police

Lieutenant Catania said the three newly hired Police recruits, who are doing a fine job, are on Phase III of their field training. There is a total of four phases with the final one being the shadow program. One civilian dispatcher is in field training and in the learning phases of her new position. Another civilian dispatcher was just hired and she began work yesterday. She had been a dispatcher for Cromwell. One Police Officer is out on Maternity Leave.

The VCS Scheduling Software Company began onsite training with the Officers and members of the Command Staff. This will increase the efficiency for scheduling and staffing.

NexGen is still in the process of converting the CAD and RMS data at the RHPD. Lieutenant Catania said Sergeant Phelps is overseeing that.

There was one call for service in May at 60 West Street. Lieutenant Catania said there was a report of a patient who was being harassed by the Staff but it was unsubstantiated so no Police action was taken. There are nineteen patients from the Department of Corrections and thirty-two patients from the Department of Mental Health.

Lieutenant Catania referred to Councilor Kochanek's concerns. Lieutenant Catania said any of the narcotics intelligence would come to him and this would be assigned to a Detective for investigation. The SROs will also be on the road in the summer. They will be at the park and they will also be integrated into the Summerscape Program, etc. so they will have constant contact with the kids. They will be on two separate shifts so that they will get the day crowd and the night crowd. Lieutenant Catania said that he and Lieutenant Klett target any complaints of any type of activity like that. Lieutenant Catania said they are aware of the situation and they have had some internal changes with that. They will take a good look at this, this summer, and

they will reevaluate it. He told Councilor Kochanek that he will be happy to provide him with information going forward as to how this is doing.

Councilor Szeps confirmed with Lieutenant Catania that even though Councilor Kochanek had brought this to their attention that the RHPD is on top of this in providing coverage for whatever action might be necessary and this isn't just because of an incident out of Town but this is something they do all year long. Lieutenant Catania said they are very conscious as to what goes on in the bordering Towns and a lot of information is shared with those. They have other Towns that buffer the cities and those are their direct contacts. The RHPD carefully watches some of the trends that are happening in the Towns that Councilor Kochanek spoke about because a lot of what happens there is directly reflected in their activity. Lieutenant Catania said no specific event that has happened in Rocky Hill has prompted any changes in their system.

At this point, Chairwoman Bell officially welcomed Councilor Szeps to this Committee.

V. OTHER

There was nothing else to discuss.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Szeps made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth
Recording Secretary